submitting list of insured members, collection and remittance of premium and also preferring claims, the Scheme for Handloom Weavers was framed by the Life Insurance Corporation of India to cover those weavers who are members of cooperative societies which can act as a nodal agency on behalf of the insured members.

2. The proposals for carrying out certain modifications in the existing Group Insurance Scheme for Handloom Weavers, received from various quarters are summarised as below :—

(1) The Scheme should cover all handloom weavers including those outside cooperatives like individual weavers, weavers assisted by the Director of Handlooms/Handloom Corporation of the State Governments, allied workers in Handloom industry and the workers under the Khadi and Village Industries Commission.

(2) The eligibility criteria of 180 days' continuous work in a year and earning of Rs. 200/- p.m. for entry into the Scheme should be removed.

(3) The insured amount of Rs. 3000/- should be paid on survival at age 60 also.

(4) The insured amount of Rs. 3000/- should be raised to Rs. 5000/- by increasing, if necessary, the annual premium from Rs. 30/- to Rs. 45/- to be shared equally by the Centre, State Governments and the insured member.

The action taken on the above proposals are given seriatim as under :—

(1) The Life Insurance Corporation of India has extended the Group Insurance Scheme for Handloom Weavers to weavers outside the Co-operative fold and also to all allied workers in the handloom sector and the Khadi Sector provided a nodal agency has been identified or where the State Government is willing to provide the nodal agency for collection and remittance of premium etc.

(2) The eligibility condition of 180 days' continuous work and earning of Rs. 200/- p.m. to enter into the Scheme has been completely removed.

(3) The Scheme is a low cost Scheme on no-profit no-loss basis and is purely a Term Insurance Scheme under which the premium received from the members and the subsidy from the Social Security Fund are pooled together to meet *death claims only*. The question of payment of sum insured on survival at age 60 does not therefore arise.

(4) The Social Security Fund from which the Scheme is subsidised has been set up for the benefit of the weaker sections covering a large number of segments (including handloom weavers). Therefore, the quantum of insurance cover i.e. Rs. 3000/- and the low premium therefor under the Scheme for the Handloom Weavers have been determined taking into consideration this aspect. Enhancement of the cover for only one such section i.e. "weavers" is neither possible nor appropriate. However, the LIC has extended, on its own initiative, the double accident benefit, namely, payment of Rs. 6000/-, in the event of death due to accident, to the nominee of the member covered under the scheme.

Ban imposed by West Germany on the import of Leather Garments from India

*420. SHRI S. MADHAVAN : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the West German Government had banned the import of Indian Leather garments manufactured with the use of pentachlorophenol on the ground that this chemical is prone to skin diseases ;

(b) whether leather garments worth several crores of rupees exported from

India were impounded at various ports in West Germany;

(c) whether the West German Government is agreeable to exempt the leather garments treated with pentachlorophenol prior to 23rd December, 1989; and

(d) if so, whether Government have issued any direction to the Central Leather Research Institute to issue certificates to the exporters showing that the leather garments were treated with pentachlorophenol prior to 23rd December, 1989 without high testing charges.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI ARANGIL SHREEDHARAN) : (a) to d) A Decree was issued in the Federal Republic of Germany (FRG) on 22-12-1989 banning import of all product, unless otherwise specified under special dispensation, containing Pentachlorophenol (PCP) beyond stipulated limits under Hazardous Sustance Act with effect from 23-3-1990. It is understood that the Federal Health Agency (BGA) in the FRG had evidence that products treated with PCP were injurious to health and environment. Upon intervention by the Government of India, the FRG authorities granted dispensation for import of leather & leather products, including leather garments that had been treated with PCP before the date of the Decree. This dispensation was available till 30th June, 1990.

Appropriate measures have been initiated by the Central Leather Research Institute (CLRI), Madras for testing and certification of PCP and for dissemination of information to the exporters. Assistance of FRG authorities has also been sought in regard to procurement of testing equipment, specifying testing procedures and training of personnels in testing.

The Council for Leather Exports (CLE), Madras has reported that no hold up of consignment in West Germany has been reported by its members.

Ban on recruitments in State and Central Governments

@3385. PROF. SOURENDRA BHATTACHARJEE : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government had issued any instructions to the State Governments to *stop* recruitment in all the Departments barring the Health Department and the schools;

(b) whether the ban on appointment to Central Government Departments is continuing; and

(c) in what manner Government propose to realise the right to work for all the unemployed in view of the existence of ban on recruitments ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANIL SHASTRI) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) No ban as such was imposed on recruitment to Central Government Departments. As an economy measure, Ministries/Departments of the Government of India were advised in January, 1984, not to fill up existing vacancies. Modified guidelines regarding filling up of vacancies were issued in May/July, 1986. According to the revised guidelines, subject to fulfilment of certain conditions, vacancies in Government Departments, both plan and non-plan, arising due to promotion, retirement, death, resignation, dismissal/removal or deputation can now be filled up.

Drilling Machines to combat drought

@@3386. DR. RATNAKAR PANDEY :
SHRI BEKAL UTSHAI :

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether powerful drilling machines for drilling deep tube-wells for drinking water have been received from foreign countries to combat drought in the country;

(b) if so, the States to which such machines have been allotted; and

(c) the criteria laid down for the purpose ?

@Previously Unstarred Question No. 2345, transferred from 28th August, 1990.

@@Previously Unstarred Question No. 2783, transferred from 31st August, 1990.